

WHITEFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL MEETING
July 6, 2021

Call to Order: Supervisor Walter Ruhl called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:30 p.m. on the lawn of the Whiteford Township Offices. Present were Township Board Members Donald Sahloff; Tim Hill; Bernice Heidelberg; Angela Christensen; Walter Ruhl; Attorney, David Petitjean; Township Engineer, Dave Kubiske. There were approximately 37 guests.

Special Assessment Resolution No. 2 (Water District #2): Clerk Angela Christensen read the Special Assessment Resolution No. 2 (Water District #2).

Public Hearing: Walter Ruhl opened the public hearing pertaining Water II Special Assessment District at 7:10 p.m. and explained the guidelines of the public hearing.

The following individuals addressed the board with questions and/or concerns:

- Rita Turkington, 5777 Sterns Road and 5799 Sterns Road: Agreed everyone should have good, clean water. Opposes the Water II District. Questioned assessment cost and interest, E. Coli problems within the township, whether water plant was voted on. Gave suggestions: charge everyone who wants water, option to tie in, exempt those who do not want to tie in, entire township should vote on water, map of district and include Section Road.
- Leonard Bullard, 7080 Schnipke Drive: Will fire hydrants be required? Will tie in be required? How is assessment cost allocated?
- Ron Miller, 7135 Whiteford Center Road: Will cost be entirely on residents, or will there be Federal funding? Will there be strings attached to this funding? Will there be sewer coming into Whiteford Center/Sterns area? Can we use stone quarry water?
- Dave Lorenz, 5733 Sterns Road and 5734 Sterns Road: Opposes the Water II District. Why was this route chosen when residents oppose it? Why aren't businesses and the apartments paying for all of the costs? Need to assess businesses for future traffic and infrastructure problems. Will land be more valuable because of Water District II? Wants to see breakdown of costs by next public hearing. Will the jobs be going out to bid? Wants to see a timeline.
- Amy Peacock, 8233 Sylvania-Petersburg Road: Concerned main goal of Water District II is for the apartments and businesses. Assessment of \$15,000 is a lot of money.
- Sara Schneider, 8095 Sylvania-Petersburg Road: How is assessment determined? Will property taxes be increased because of increased property value after Water District II?
- Scott Mills, 8061 Sylvania-Petersburg Road: How is the \$15,000 assessment calculated? Is assessment the same for an empty lot? Who hears tax tribunal appeals? How many bids are taken for engineering and construction costs? Will his home value be arbitrarily increased?
- Ted Peacock: 8233 Sylvania-Petersburg Road: Is there a mandatory connection to the water line for residential and for commercial? Who started Public Act 188, 1954? Define "user" in the water ordinance. Why pay a maintenance fee when not connected to water? Why not re-route water line? Can cost of water tower be spread to entire township? Who paid the majority of Water IB? Could the apartments be connected to South County Water?
- Marilyn Stevenson, 8150 Sylvania-Petersburg Road: Is an alternate route for water line an option? How many condemned wells are in the township?

- John Clawson, 8211 Sylvania-Petersburg Road: Will the cost be \$15,000 for each resident? Is there a grant? Residents being overcharged.
- Diane Vesey, 5890 Sterns Road: Whiteford Township has first three exits entering Michigan and are the saddest, dirtiest exits. Need to improve ability to develop these exits and use wise zoning to develop business to reduce burden on residents. Believes her family would have lived longer if they had good, clean water not well water.
- Mike Deye, 8255 Sylvania-Petersburg Road: Asked about Public Act 188. Why not run water line down Wadsworth Road? Can the apartments connect to South County Water? What is the next step to develop? Does not want township to be like Bedford.

The public hearing was closed at 8:57 p.m.

Special Assessment Resolution No. 2 (Water District #2): Motion to approve the Special Assessment Resolution No. 2 (Water District #2) made by Donald Sahloff, second by Tim Hill. Roll call vote: Donald Sahloff, yes, Bernice Heidelberg, yes, Tim Hill, yes, Angela Christensen, yes, Walter Ruhl, yes. Motion passed 5-0.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. after completion of the agenda.

Angela Christensen
Whiteford Township Clerk